

Remarks

Information Disclosure Statement

A new Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith in order to overcome the objections raised in the Office Action.

With respect to German patent DD 258820 listed on the IDS form, 6-hydroxymethyl-androsta-1,4-diene-3,17-dione is prepared from androsta-1,4-diene-3,17-dione via 1,3-dipyrrolidinoandrosta-3,5-dien-17-one. A solution of 1,3-dipyrrolidinoandrosta-3,5-dien-17-one in benzene-ethanol is stirred with aqueous formaldehyde (HCHO) until the reaction is complete. See page 2, lines 22-27 of the specification.

Copending Applications

Applicants have no information within their knowledge as to other copending U.S. patent applications which are material to patentability of the present application.

Specification

Applicants are not aware of any errors in the specification.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 2005/070951.

WO 2005/070951 was filed as PCT/US2005/001248 on January 14, 2005.

Paragraph [0001] of the specification has been amended to state that the present application is a 371 of PCT/US2005/001248 filed January 14, 2005. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

No fees are believed to be needed for this response. However, if fees are needed, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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